

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PATERSON'S SCHOOL 28/PATERSON ACADEMY FOR THE GIFTED & TALENTED  
NAMED NATIONAL TITLE I DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL**

*As National Title I Distinguished School, School 28 awarded \$15,000 Grant*

PATERSON, New Jersey, December 5, 2016 – The Paterson Public School District is pleased to announce that its elementary school, School 28/Paterson Academy for the Gifted & Talented, has been selected by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) to be the State's designee as a National Title I Distinguished School. According to the letter sent to the school from the National Title I Association, School 28 was selected for national recognition "because of the success of the school's educational programs and progress made by your students." The Association also noted that "each state may only name two schools as National Title I Distinguished Schools per year, so this is an especially prestigious honor."

The National Title I Association has been selecting examples of superior Title I school programs for national recognition through the National Title I Distinguished Schools program since 1996. Schools must qualify per one of the following categories:

- Category 1: Exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years
- Category 2: Closing the achievement gap between student groups
- Category 3: Excellence in serving special populations of students (e.g. homeless, migrant, English learners, etc.)

Paterson was recognized for Category 1: Exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years.

"This is outstanding news for our district and I am so proud of our School 28 staff and students," said State District Superintendent, Dr. Donnie Evans. "This elementary school overcame many challenges; and to be recognized as a National Title 1 Distinguished School is truly an exceptional accomplishment. Paterson Public Schools continues to make great progress and we are determined to provide every child with a quality education that prepares them for college and career."

School 28/Paterson Academy for the Gifted & Talented, which currently has 494 students (pre-K through grade 8), will be recognized at the 2017 National Title I Conference which will take place February 22-25, 2017 in Long Beach, CA. All selected Distinguished Schools will be honored during the opening keynote session, in front of the 3,000+ attendees from across the country. School 28 will receive a \$15,000 grant to be used to attend this conference.

"We are extremely honored to be recognized by the State as a National Title 1 Distinguished School," noted Nancy Castro, school Principal. "School 28/Paterson Academy for the Gifted & Talented is committed to creating a rigorous learning environment with academically and socially successful students. As a team, we have a responsibility to help our children strive for excellence, while addressing the needs of the whole child. Overall, our goal is to develop a growth mindset and create a love of learning and resilience that is crucial for success."

For more information about this special recognition, please visit:

<http://www.titlei.org/c/titlei/files/Association/2016/DistinguishedSchools/DSForSchools.pdf>

**About Paterson Public Schools**

The Paterson Public School District is a diverse urban school district located in northern New Jersey. As the third largest school district in New Jersey, the district enrolls over 28,000 students in 56 schools to accommodate students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12. The school district's strategic plan focuses on four priorities: Effective Academic Programs; Creating & Maintaining Healthy School Cultures; Family & Community Engagement; and Efficient & Responsive Operations. For more information, visit [www.paterson.k12.nj.us](http://www.paterson.k12.nj.us).

**Media Contact:**

Terry Corallo, [tcorallo@paterson.k12.nj.us](mailto:tcorallo@paterson.k12.nj.us); 973-321-2430